

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5

Whereas, American Sign Language (ASL) has been appropriately recognized by the Missouri General Assembly as "a fully developed, autonomous, unique, visual-gestural language with its own syntax, rhetoric, grammar and morphology" (Section 209.285, RSMo); and

Whereas, there are an estimated 546,000 persons in Missouri who are deaf or hard of hearing, of whom approximately 10,000 have American Sign Language (ASL) as their first or native language; and

Whereas, the Missouri General Assembly truly values the socio, cultural, ethnic, and linguistic diversity of its citizenry:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby recognize American Sign Language as the first or native language of many of its deaf and hard of hearing citizens; and

Be it further resolved that the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby urge the Governor to establish by executive order an annual "Deaf Awareness Week" to be held in September of each year to coincide with the International Deaf Awareness Week, at which time the language, culture, and contributions of Missouri's deaf and hard of hearing citizens will be recognized; recognize the diversity of deaf and hard of hearing citizens, including both the oral deaf and the signing deaf; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Governor Bob Holden.

Offered by Representative David L. Reynolds

Ted Wedel, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, and Terry L. Spieler, Secretary of the Senate, do hereby certify that the aforementioned is a true and correct copy of House Concurrent Resolution No. , adopted by the House of Representatives on , 2002, and concurred in the Senate on , 2002.

Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives

Secretary of the Senate